

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9715

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, JA, US
SUBJECT: REHABILITATION USA SEMINAR AND TRADE SHOW

1. EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT SUBJECT SEMINAR AND SHOW SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 8 TO 10 SHOULD BE SEEN BY ALL TO BE A SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION OF THE BEST THE U.S. HAS TO OFFER IN TERMS OF NEW IDEAS ABOUT REHABILITATION AND NEW PRODUCTS AVAILABLE THROUGH PRIVATE COMPANIES. WE MUST HOWEVER EXERCISE CONSIDERABLE CAUTION TO AVOID ACCUSATION THAT U.S. IS EXPLOITING THE HANDICAPPED FOR CRASS COMMERCIAL PURPOSES. IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT ALL ASPECTS OF PLANS BE CAREFULLY COORDINATED SO THAT SEMINAR-SHOW WILL STRESS THEME OF U.S. GOVERNMENT, PHILANTHROPIC AND BUSINESS COOPERATION FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HANDICAPPED.

2. AID TO HANDICAPPED IN JAPAN HAS BEEN HERETOFORE CONSIDERABLY NEGLECTED. SOCIAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE HANDICAPPED DIFFER FROM THOSE IN U.S. ADDITIONAL IMPETUS TOWARD MORE COMPREHENSIVE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE HANDICAPPED WILL CERTAINLY BE GIVEN, HOWEVER, AS RESULT OF RECENT ELECTION TO UPPER HOUSE OF WELL-KNOWN
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PARALYZED FORMER ACTOR. HOWEVER, GENERAL ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT TOWARD COSTLY INITIATIVES IN HITHERTO NEGLECTED FIELD WILL CAUSE STRAIN IN JAPANESE BUDGET AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES. IF NOT HANDLED WITH GREAT CARE, U.S. ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD OBVIOUSLY COULD BE PORTRAYED AS DISTURBING TO THE SLOWLY DEVELOPING JAPANESE CONSENSUS THAT MORE GOJ FUNDS

SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

3. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS NOT TO UPSET ONGOING DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED U.S.-JAPAN OVERALL AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN HEALTH, MEDICAL RESEARCH AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS, OF WHICH REHABILITATION PROGRAMS WOULD CONSTITUTE A NEW AND IMPORTANT PART.

4. JAMES GARRETT OF HEW AND MANY OTHER USG REHABILITATION SPECIALISTS ARE WELL INFORMED AS TO JAPANESE SENSITIVITIES IN THIS AREA AND SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSULTED DURING OUR WASHINGTON DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. WE THINK IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE TO PLAN SMALLER PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS BETWEEN VISITING U.S. SPECIALISTS AND THEIR JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS, PROBABLY AS EVENT SEPARATE FROM SEMINAR.

5. WE WILL BE OUTLINING SEMINAR-SHOW PLANS WITH MINISTRIES OF LABOR AND OF HEALTH AND WELFARE IN COMING DAYS TO SEEK THEIR ADVICE AS TO MOST APPROPRIATE METHODS FOR PUBLICIZING SEMINAR-SHOW AND SECURING APPROPRIATE JAPANESE PARTICIPATION. TO ASSIST US WE NEED DETAILED INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT WILL PARTICIPATE IN SEMINAR. OUR TENTATIVE EVALUATION IS THAT GOJ WILL NOT WISH TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICIPATE IN ANY OFFICIAL FASHION AND THAT WE SHOULD THEREFORE LOOK UPON SEMINAR-SHOW AS U.S. EXPLANATION OF HOW WE APPROACH REHABILITATION, LEAVING JAPANESE PARTICIPANTS TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT APPLICABILITY OF U.S. METHODS AND PRODUCTS TO JAPANESE SITUATION.

6. EMBASSY WOULD STRESS THAT USDOC PROJECT OFFICER AND OTHERS SHOULD COORDINATE ACTIVITIES CAREFULLY WITH JAPAN DESK AT STATE AND HEW OFFICIALS WHO ARE ALERT TO JAPANESE SENSITIVITIES. CORRESPONDENCE TO JAPANESE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY ROUTED THROUGH EMBASSY FOR FORWARDING AT EMBASSY DISCRETION AND ALL BUT STRICTLY OPERATIONAL TELEGRAMS SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH REGULAR CHANNELS AND NOT TELEX.

7. WE BELIEVE WE CAN PUT TOGETHER A GOOD SEMINAR-SHOW IF WE ARE ALL WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD CLEARLY AGREED GOALS.
MANSFIELD

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